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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/551,809	04/18/2000	Yoshimasa Furuike	1-31	2666

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/551,809

Applicant(s)

FURUIKE, YOSHIMASA

Examiner

Anh Ly

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,11,19,23 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,11,19,23 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 02/17/2004 with respect to claims 1, 3-19 and 21-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. Claims 3-4, 6-10, 12-18, 21-22, 24-28 and 30-40 have been cancelled.
3. Claims 1, 5, 11, 19, 23 and 29 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 5, 11, 19, 23, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,393,149 issued to Friederich et al. (hereinafter Friederich) in view of US Patent No. 6,167,084 issued to Wang et al. (hereinafter Wang).

With respect to claim 1, Friederich discloses attribution record group forming means for classifying data (geographic database record is grouped into or separated into separate groupings or parcels: col. 2, lines 62-67 and col. 3, lines 1-32; also see groupings of data into subset of layer of geographic data: col. 10, lines 8-31; also see

col. 11, lines 59-67 and col. 12, lines 1-8 and col. 2, lines 62-67), which is requested to be stored into a database (geographic database: col. 8, lines 1-3), according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions (based on the geographic region, which is represented by a road segment data entity or record in a map database: col. col. 7, lines 12-30, col. 8, lines 1-22 and line 30-67; also see col. 13, lines 49-67 and col. 14, lines 1-18; also see col. 2, lines 62-67 and col. 12, lines 42-47);

data compressing means for compressing the attribution record groups in a unit of each of the attribution record groups (see abstract, col. 4, lines 1-17 and lines 61-67; also see col. 5, lines 1-8 and col. 18, lines 7-41);

and file forming means for combining each of the attribution record groups, which are compressed by the data compressing means, and for forming a data base file, wherein the data compressing means compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched (col. 18, lines 7-41 and lines 59-67; and see abstract, col. 1, lines 8-59, col. 2, lines 1-61. col. 3, lines 12-67, col. 4, lines 1-67, see figs 8-11c, col. 5, lines 65-67, col. 6, lines 1-64, col. 17, lines 22-67, col. 18, lines 1-67, col. 19, lines 1-67 and col. 20, lines 1-54).

Friederich discloses a compression method that can be used with geographic database from which is classified based on the groupings of parcels and based on the geographic region representing by a road segment data record in the database and the method of compressing is used the Huffman encoding. The compressing processing is starting from one end of a compressed data stream and advancing through the

compressed data stream to the other end. Friederich does not explicitly indicate the first compression method compresses the attribution record group so that the attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that compressed by using the second compression method, and the second compression method compresses the attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

However, Wang discloses encoder and decoder and quantizer for compressed and uncompressed video bit stream at a quantization step size level. As we known that the more compressed data would time much time to decompress, that is the tradeoff between the compression and decompression based on the rate and the faster or short time (see fig. 2 and fig. 5, col. 7, lines 15-67 and col. 8, lines 1-24).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Friederich with the teachings of Wang so as to have a quantization step size level in order to get a compression rate and a faster way to decompress the compressed data. This combination would have made the system for compression and decompression methods of quantizing the step size level in order to have compression rate and the faster way to decompress the compressed data and it is being used for various kinds of data (Friederich – col. 3, lines 50-67 and col. 4, lines 1-25) in the searching the data in the compressed data format environment.

With respect to claim 5, Friederich data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which includes a target record to be

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retrieve, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the database file is received (col. 18, lines 8-57, col. 31, lines 50-67, col. 32, lines 36-67 and col. 33, lines 1-62).

With respect to claim 11, Friederich discloses the data compressing means further compresses a specific record string, which appears in the attribution record groups frequently compared to the other record string, to reduce a size of the attribution record groups (col. 19, lines 60-67 and col. 20, lines 1-39);

Claim 19 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a method rather than an apparatus, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 23 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a method rather than an apparatus, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.

Claim 29 is essentially the same as claim 11 except that it is directed to a method rather than an apparatus, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 11 hereinabove.

Contact Information

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (703) 306-4527 or via E-Mail: **ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV**. The examiner can be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, see the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (703) 305-9790.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 (Central Official Fax Number)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

AL 
FEB. 25th, 2004


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER